A growing church is exciting for some and disappointing for others. Of course there are two different types of church growth: spiritual growth and numeric growth.

Every Christian believer will agree that spiritual growth is something that God wants to do in all of His children. Spiritual growth happens when people allow themselves to be built up in faith, and develop a closer relationship with God. There is no end to this growth process because no matter where the level of our faith currently is, we can always get stronger and closer to the Lord. It takes discipline, effort, and the “want-to” but it can and should be happening in each of our lives.

What about numeric growth? Some people want it and some people don’t. It really comes down to motives. What’s the real reason you want to see more people attending your church? Why don’t you want more people attending? Let’s start with the latter.

Common reasons people don’t want the church to grow is because they fear the “family atmosphere” will disappear. They’ve built friendships and a closeness that brings comfort. They fear more people will bring more problems and chaos into the family. The idea is that too many people will weaken relationships. That “the church will be so busy with so many people, I might get left out.” For others it’s the fear of losing their place of importance. “If the church grows, somebody might take my place of ministry.” This is also one of the main problems the religious rulers of the day had with Jesus.
They didn’t want their position of influence or importance to be taken—even if it is the Messiah.

Unfortunately, the factor behind these fears is insecurity. I know what it’s like to have members come up to me and say, “Pastor, I don’t want the church to grow!” I know what it’s like to have people come to me and say, “If the church grows any bigger, we’re leaving.” And they leave. But was there motive inspired by God or personal agenda?

I believe every healthy church should grow because the more people in attendance, the more people hear the Gospel. Pastor John Osteen before passing away used to say, “People who don’t want a church to grow are self-centered and are saying to the world, ‘You can die and go to Hell.’”

The church has been given a mandate by Jesus Christ to “Make Disciples.” Fellowship is very important. Relationships among believers are very important. Just not at the expense of making disciples. Not at the expense of getting unbelievers born again or getting those who have wandered from the faith, back in the fold and strong in the faith. And not at the expense of having a strong godly influence in our community like Jesus had in His.

The motive is to help as many people as possible to get closer to God. That they, “Walk by faith, not by sight.” That they, “Walk in the Spirit and don’t fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” That many will be, “Saved by grace.”

What part can we, the church play? Simple- BE a witness! In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells us witnessing is something we are (not just what we do).

Witnessing is something we ARE, not something we DO. How we carry ourselves; how we have good attitudes when things are going wrong; how God is glorified through our integrity, kindness, love, our words, and our faith. Yes, we need to eventually open our mouths and tell someone the great things God has done for us, but being a witness builds credibility to speak into someone’s life. People don’t care very much about our theology and doctrine. They want to know if God will do for them what He has done for you. The Holy Spirit gives us that dynamite ability to be that witness, validating the power of God in a person’s life.

Finally, it’s important to invite people to church. Sharing with them the importance of getting their children grounded in truth because the world is out to steal their kids and take them down a destructive path. We are actually told by Jesus, “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.” The word compel means to urge or to beg. We’re not badgering people, we’re helping them. Let’s play an integral part in helping people get saved and delivered by the power of God. Getting them to church opens up the door for them to overcome strongholds, addictions and build a godly family as they grow strong in Christ.

Let’s grow church, spiritually and numerically!

Pastor Jim
Thank you everyone who gave towards the Back to School Supplies. I remember hearing of the little girl last year who was sad because she wasn’t able to do her homework. Why not? Because she didn’t have even one pencil or any paper. So thank you so much that our 180 kids can move another step towards success in adulthood because they do have the necessary tools to get through school.

Our two summer Jamboree’s are done, and they were both very successful on both the relationship and discipleship building level. Now we’re gearing up for our Fall 180 session. We’ve been working on some great things that will help God’s Word get on the level where each child will be able to understand it and grow spiritually. This will also be the first year where our 180 JR’s will be learning the same lesson and verse as the older kids.

We are very excited!

“It is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”
Matthew 18:14
RIP CITY YOUTH

The youth group has lots of momentum right now as teens are bringing other teens. We’ve had a couple of great events with a BBQ & s’mores party at the Freeman house and also went bowling.

We have also started a Youth Leadership Team, which we are believing will have great impact on the overall discipleship making process.

Pray for our leaders: Eva Zajac, John Rivers, Caleb Butler, Jean Freeman

RIP CITY JR. KIDS

Teaching the elementary principles of the Gospel is critical, even to young children. Isaiah 28:9 says, “Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little.”

Please pray for their teachers: Sandy Price, Adasia Magee, Kathy Adams, Ayana Smith, Kim O’Connor, Anna Rivers

JR. SUNDAY TEACHINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

- September 2: In the Beginning
- September 9: The First Sin
- September 16: Two by Two
- September 23: God’s Amazing Promise
- September 30: Abraham’s Big Test
When it comes to turning kids into followers of Christ, we are committed to do whatever it takes to teach God’s Word on the level where the kids can understand it. It takes much creativity and energy but it is well worth the cost.

**GOAL...**

1) To partner with parents in the teaching and training of children in Biblical principles.

2) To teach children how to live by God’s Word and motivate them to choose the ways of God.

3) To capture the children’s imagination and teach in exciting, relevant ways, where the children can understand God’s message to them.

4) That God will be real to the children, where they will grow up knowing the Bible is truly God’s Word to live by, and not just a storybook.

Please continue to pray for fruitfulness, wisdom and energy for our faithful teachers: Greg Grant, Eva Zajac, Aaron Brown

**KIDS SUNDAY TEACHINGS FOR SEPTEMBER**

- **September 2** - Conquering fear
- **September 9** - Resolving Conflict
- **September 16** - Know Your Bible
- **September 23** - Don’t compromise God’s Word
- **September 30** - Living Like Christ
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Fri-Sun</td>
<td>2018 Women’s Conference</td>
<td>Location: Hallmark Resort and Spa, Cannon Beach, Oregon, Cost: $150 per person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varied</td>
<td>20:20 Home Groups</td>
<td>See details at the Resource Desk. Groups Meet on Varied Nights; in Homes around Town</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/Wed</td>
<td>“A Woman’s Heart”</td>
<td>11-Week Beth Moore DVD Study, Sundays at 9:00am/Wednesdays at 6:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>PORTLAND OPEN BIBLE FREE FOOD MARKET</td>
<td>Time: 11:00am - 2:00pm, EVERYONE is Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>180: MAKIN’ THE U-TURN</td>
<td>For Kids 4yrs - 5th grade, Time: 12:30-2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Back to Church Sunday</td>
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FEATURED EVENTS

A Woman’s Heart
11-Week Beth Moore DVD Study
Sundays at 9:00am/Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Begins: Week of September 9

20:20 Home Groups
Begins: Week of September 16
Groups meet on various nights, in homes around town

2018 Women’s Conference
Date: October 26 - 28
Location: Hallmark Resort and Spa
Cannon Beach, Oregon
Cost: $150 per person
As we move into the fall, we would like to thank so many of you who have consistently supplied the pantry with some essentials. We would not be able to give out the food that we give without the grocery bags that you have provided over the years, as well as the egg cartons that you bring to the pantry regularly. Thanks for your prayers, your financial contributions and your gifts.

While we are on the topic of gifts, there are some things that we can't take but at times receive. For example: any repackaged foods. At times we received cereal that has been placed in smaller bags. It takes a lot of effort to do that, but unfortunately we can't use it.

Lastly, we will always welcome any toiletries you bring our way. Things like toilet paper, bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and all such items are always an incredible blessing.

We have an amazing church because of amazing people just like you. May God bless you significantly for all you do to make a difference in our community.